

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 261247Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4147
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR, XF, BA, US, UK
SUBJECT : BRITISH APPROACH ON OPERATION ROLLER COASTER

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR ON INSTRUCTIONS
JAN. 23 TO ASK IF EMBASSY OR MIDEASTFOR PLANNED TO
PUBLICIZE LOCALLY IN ANY WAY MARCH 7 - 17 OPERATION ROLLER
COASTER. AT THAT TIME, EMBASSY HAD NO INFO ABOUT THIS
OPERATION BUT HAS LEARNED SUBSEQUENTLY FROM MIDEASTFOR
THAT IT IS NAVAL CONTROL OF SHIPPING (NCS) EXERCISE UNDER
AEGIS OF COMMANDER U.S. THIRD FLEET (SAN DIEGO) AND INVOLVES
NAVAL CONTROL OF SHIPPING OFFICERS OF U.S., U.K., CANADA,
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, EXERCISE
IS BASICALLY COMMUNICATIONS ALERT OF NAVAL CONTROL OF
SHIPPING OFFICERS IN PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. OPERATION
MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE SENDING USN RESERVISTS WHO ARE NCS-TRAINED
TO FOREIGN PORTS TO TAKE PART IN EXERCISE. BRITISH WOULD
ALERT CIVILIANS, USUALLY IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY, WHO SERVE AS
NCS OFFICERS IN VARIOUS PORTS, SUCH AS IN KUWAIT.

3. ACCORDING BRITISH AMBASSADOR, U.S. AND CANADA PLAN TO
ANNOUNCE EXERCISE ON MARCH 1, DESCRIBING IT AS ROUTINE ALLIED
NCS EXERCISE IN PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. BRITISH ARE
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CONCERNED THAT PRESS GUIDANCE AND/OR ANY RESPONSES TO
PRESS QUERIES FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT GO BEYOND
PHRASE "PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN AREA" AND IDENTIFY
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WHERE ALLIED NCS OFFICERS ARE LOCATED.
APPARENTLY, BRITISH WOULD FIND THIS PARTICULARLY EMBAR-
BRASSING IN KUWAIT, AS WE MIGHT ALSO THERE AND ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMANDER MIDDLE EAST FORCE HAS INFORMED COMTHIRDFLT THAT MIDEASTFOR NO LONGER HAS NCS OFFICERS BILLET AND THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR COMIDEASTFOR TO PARTICIPATE. COMTHIRDFLT RESPONDED BY INFORMING COMIDEASTFOR THAT LATTER WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN OPERATION ROLLER COASTER.

5. EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OPERATION ROLLER COASTER ENTAILS, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, IS SKETCHY AND DEPT. MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW OPERATION WITH USN AUTHORITIES TO ASSURE THAT EXERCISE DOES NOT TREAD ON ANY FOREIGN POLICY TOES. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED BRITISH THAT AS FAR AS BAHRAIN IS CONCERNED, US IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN ROLLER COASTER AND OF COURSE WILL NOT BE PUBLICIZING EXERCISE LOCALLY. CLUVERIUS

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